

ATTACHMENT - Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A convection furnace for a tempered glass sheet (1),
comprising:

a hauling rack along which into which furnace the glass sheet arrives is directed into the furnace, along a hauling track, as on turning rolls (3), and the furnace has also

heating resistances (5) which heat air to be blasted against the glass sheet (1) for heating the blast air,

a blast apparatus and including blast channelling (4), (2) for blasting said the heated air against the glass sheet, characterized in that

wherein the blast channelling comprises elongated air channels (2) disposed in the glass sheet (1) direction or fitted at right angles to the glass sheet direction,

wherein inside of each said air channel which there is at least a part of each a said blast heating resistance, (5) and

wherein each said elongate air channel includes a narrowest portion in which the at least a part of said heating resistance is located for effecting heat transfer by convection from each heating resistance to the blast air,

wherein each said air channel (2) has below downstream of the resistance line narrowest portion a broadening portion, said and in the broadening portion including a bottom part (9), whereby bottom part (9) is furnished with blast holes through which the heated air is directed onto the glass sheet (7, 8), and

wherein said bottom part is made of a thin plate which, due to a strong convection blast of the air and/or a surface quality chosen for said thin plate, transmits substantially little thermal radiation to the adjacent glass sheet.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ air blast holes (7, 8) ~~of in the~~ bottom part (9) ~~are holes with~~ comprise collars made in the thin plate.

4. (currently amended) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, wherein a temperature difference between a surface temperature of ~~characterized in that the~~ heating resistances (5) ~~are placed in strong air flow in order to restrict their surface heat~~ to 300°C higher than the temperature of and a temperature of the heated air, which has ~~passed the said resistance~~ is no more than 300°C.

5. (currently amended) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, wherein a temperature difference between a surface temperature of ~~characterized in that a said~~ heating resistances (5) ~~are placed in strong air flow in order to restrict their surface heat~~ to 200°C higher than the and a temperature of the heated air is no more than 200°C, ~~which has passed the said resistance.~~

6. (currently amended) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ bottom part (9) ~~temperature is substantially the same as the~~ temperature of the blast air on the glass sheet ~~(4).~~

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ heating resistances (5) ~~is are~~ located in a respective said channel (2) ~~in the direction of the respective said~~ channel ~~(2).~~

9. (currently amended) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that in that the~~ heating resistances (5) ~~is are~~ located crosswise with respect to said air channels (2) ~~and are~~ led to travel through ~~it~~ said air channels.

10. (currently amended) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, further comprising a separate adjustment mechanism for power to said heating resistances ~~characterized in that for adjustment of the distribution of temperature and rising speed of the glass sheet temperature of glass (1) the powers of heating resistances (5) can by means of the furnace arrangements be adjusted separately and also the rotation speed of the blast apparatus maintaining the flow of blast air can be adjusted.~~

11. (new) A convection heating furnace according to claim 1, wherein said narrowest portion of said elongated air channel has a non-diverging cross section in an air flow direction.

12. (new) A convection heating furnace according to claim 11, wherein said narrowest portion of said elongated air channel has a constant cross section in the air flow direction.